

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/821,360

Examiner

Lam P Pham

Applicant(s)

BOYER ET AL.

Art Unit

2636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/24/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 14,16,17 and 19-28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/9/2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 14, 16-17, 19-28 allowed, (renumbered as 1-13).
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

There is no reference in prior art or suggest a brake light apparatus (claim 14) comprising: at least two lamps operative as conventional brake lights, wherein a light signal intensity of said lamps is held constant concurrent with braking; a lamp operative as a signal enhancing brake light wherein a light signal intensity of said lamp is modulated for a predetermined first time interval concurrent with braking, and wherein said light signal intensity is held constant following said first time interval; and

a brake light controller operative to modulate light signal intensity of said signal enhancing brake light, comprising:

a voltage sensor operative to sense a voltage between a brake actuator switch line and electric ground wherein said voltage signals the state of the brakes as either applied or unapplied; a modulation interval timer operative to signal a first predetermined time interval wherein said light signal intensity is modulated for said first predetermined time interval; a lockout timer operative to signal a second predetermined time interval wherein modulation of said light signal intensity is prohibited for said second predetermined time interval for avoiding repetitive light signal modulation in stop and go traffic;

a pulse width modulator operative to drive a control element; whereby said pulse width modulator sends a control signal to said control element; and a control element operative to control an amount of current flow through a light source, said amount of current flow controlling the intensity of the light source; AND

A method for modulating a brake light signal intensity for improved indication of vehicle braking (claim 24) comprising:

detecting voltage between a brake actuator switch line and electrical ground thereby detecting the state of braking of a vehicle;
modulating light signal intensity of a signal enhancing brake lamp for a first predetermined time interval;
holding said light signal intensity constant for remainder of braking;
prohibiting said light signal intensity modulation for a second predetermined time interval following an initial braking event for avoiding repetitive light signal modulation in stop and go traffic.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

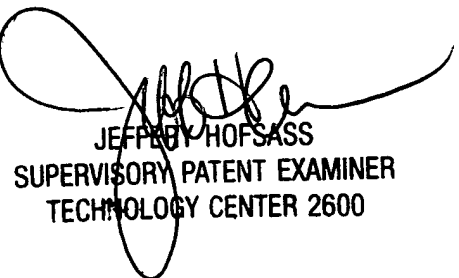
Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lam P Pham whose telephone number is 571-272-2977. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM-6PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffery A Hofsass can be reached on 571-272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lam Pham
April 5, 2005.


JEFFERY HOFSSASS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600